

P a t e n t   c l a i m s

1.    Housing (5) for an airbag device (4) on a motor  
5    vehicle, with a hollow space for accommodation of a con-  
tainer (8) of a gas generator (9) and of an airbag (12),  
whereby housing (5) exhibits a basic structure (27) and a  
housing cover (6) connected with this which faces the vehi-  
cle occupants when installed, on whose inner side at least  
10    one material weakness (16, 17) is formed, which can be torn  
open if airbag (12) unfolds in order to retain the vehicle  
occupants,

characterised in that  
the at least one material weakness (16, 17) is so slight  
15    that it cannot be seen from the side of the housing cover  
(6) facing the passenger compartment, and that housing  
cover (6) is additionally connected with the basic housing  
structure (27) by means of a perforation (13).

20    2.    Housing according to Claim 1, characterised in  
that perforation (13) is formed on a part of housing (5)  
which is not visible to the vehicle occupants when in-  
stalled.

25    3.    Housing according to at least one of the previous  
claims, characterised in that the axis of the tear line of  
perforation (13) is orientated basically parallel to the  
vertical vehicle axis (25).

30    4.    Housing according to at least one of the previous  
claims, characterised in that the perforation (13) is  
formed on a vehicle body side housing section (26).

5. Housing according to at least one of the previous claims, characterised in that perforation (13) is formed in a material-free area of the housing (5) by means of bridges (19), which create a connection between the vehicle body side housing section (26) and housing cover (6).

6. Housing according to at least one of the previous claims, characterised in that perforation (13) is overlapped by a section (23) of housing cover (6).

7. Housing according to at least one of the previous claims, characterised in that perforation (13) and the at least one material weakness (16, 17) are arranged basically vertically to one another.

8. Housing according to at least one of the previous claims, characterised in that a further material weakness (14) is formed on the inner side of housing cover (6), which is close to and parallel as regards axis to an axis of rotation (15) in housing cover (6).

9. Housing according to Claim 8, characterised in that the material weakness (14) in the area of the flap axis (15) is formed in such a way that housing cover (6) does not tear open there.

10. Housing according to at least one of the previous claims, characterised in that housing (5) consists of a plastic material.

11. Housing according to at least one of the previous claims, characterised in that housing (5) is formed as the

housing of a side airbag device (4) .